

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is committed to providing our children with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, and, therefore, a college savings plan, Section 529 Qualified State Tuition and Savings Plan (QSTP), was duly enacted through laws passed by the state legislature, including state tax deductions and a matching grant program for qualified applicants;

WHEREAS: The constantly rising costs of higher education have out-paced inflation and the growth in family income, posing a serious threat to the ability of our citizens to ensure their children's access to a post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS: The amount of student loan debt also continues to rise, leaving college graduates with the ever-increasing burden of paying for their college education long after they have completed their course work; and

WHEREAS: It is in the state's interest that access to post-secondary education for our children be maintained and that parents are encouraged to save for their children's education; and

WHEREAS: Currently, nearly four-out-of-ten parents of college-bound children are not putting money aside for their children's higher education, and the State of Arkansas urges parents, grandparents, and others to begin saving for the education of children, grandchildren, and others in need of help to meet their higher-education goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 29, 2011, as

COLLEGE SAVINGS AWARENESS DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the benefits of attaining a higher education, and I urge the citizens of Arkansas to begin saving for their children's education.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 6th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2011.





MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR



MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE